

Recently, I thought we were seeing progress when the census reported last year that Black, college-educated women actually earned more than white, college-educated women, although the overall wage gap for Black women, at 65 percent, remains considerably larger than the gap for white women. No explanation was offered for the progress for Black women, but other data and information suggest that even when women seem to catch up it may not be what we had in mind. I suspect that African American women are represented disproportionately among the 50 percent of all multiple job holders who are women. I am certain that this progress for African American women also tells a tragic story. The decline in marriageable Black men, eaten alive by ghetto life, also means that many college-educated Black women are likely to be single with no need for even the short time-out for children that many white women often take that may affect their wages as compared with Black women.

The best case for a strong and updated EPA with at least the Paycheck Fairness Act occurred here in the Congress in 2003, when women custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that women workers were paid a dollar less for doing the same and similar work as men. Had they not been represented by their union, they would have had an almost impossible task using the rules for bringing and sustaining an EPA class action suit. The FPA simply modernizes the EPA to bring it in line with later passed civil rights statutes. From my tenure as EEOC chair, I know all too well the several ways that this historic legislation needs a 21st century make-over.

We cosponsored both these two bills every year to say let's at least start with the Paycheck Fairness Act so we can be prepared to go further with the Fair Pay Act. Start where you like, but Congress should be ashamed to let another year go by while working families lose more than \$200 billion annually—more than \$4,000 per family—because even considering education, age, hours works and location, women are paid less than they are worth. Let's start this year to make pay worthy of the American women we have asked to go to work.

HAMAS BREAKS TRUCE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, early this morning, the day that marks the 59th year of Israeli independence, Hamas militants broke their truce by launching dozens of rockets and mortars into Israel. While no one was hurt and there was no reported damage, this is yet another setback for Middle East peace and for the kidnapped Gilad Shalit and his family who have patiently awaited his return.

Hamas remains an organization full of contradictions. While their militant wing says the cease fire is over, the political wing insists that the cease fire is to be resumed. Hamas claims that Shalit is a prisoner of war and yet they bar the Red Cross from visiting him and have offered only scant proof the he even remains alive.

There cannot be lasting peace in the Holy Land until the Palestinian people insist that all armed parties come under the control of a freely elected government. Palestinian terrorist groups operate under their own authority, planning and carrying out their attacks based on their warped view of Israeli grievances. This is just as destructive for peace-loving Palestinians as for peace-loving Israelis.

Hamas continues to call for the destruction of Israel in its official policy statements. How can Israel hope to negotiate a lasting peace if the stated goal of the other sitting government is the very annihilation of their state? There can be peace, but only if Hamas shows in word and deed that coexistence is its goal.

Until that time, the international community should support Israel, a state that abides by international treaties and is actively seeking a long-term solution to violence. As long as Hamas continues to promulgate random attacks on civilians and violate international prisoner of war standards, it cannot be trusted to sit down with the Israelis in good faith negotiations for peace.

RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observation of Equal Pay Day, a day where we recognize that women and people of color continue to suffer the consequences of inequitable pay. This day symbolizes the time in the year which wages, especially paid to American women, catch up to the wages paid to men from the previous year.

Ever since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law in 1963, the wage gap between men and women has only been closing at a slow rate. Back then, women who worked full-time year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. Even today, women only earn 77 cents to the dollar, which means that the gap has narrowed by less than half a cent per year. In 2006, there were 70.2 million women aged 16 and over in the workforce, which made up 46 percent of all workers, and reflected a significant increase from only 18.4 million working women in 1950. Over a working lifetime, this wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family \$700,000 to \$2 million in lost wages, and thus impacting social Security benefits and pensions.

With the growing rate of women in the workforce, and more families reliant upon their paychecks for livelihood, the issue of equal pay is not simply a women's issue, but a family issue. The wage gap hurts everyone because it decreases a family's income that pays for their essential needs. When women earn more, the entire family benefits.

For these reasons Madam Speaker, I am in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. I hope that this Congress will bring new light to this bill do what has not been done over the past 40 years. It will be through our bipartisan efforts that we eradicate the unfair treatment of women in the labor market, and help families gain the resources they need to ensure that their children have access to a better future in the 21st century.

MR. LAMBORN CONDEMNS TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize but not celebrate the 40th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the State of Colorado. On April 25, 1967, the Colorado State Legislature passed its first law legalizing abortion. Since the passage of this law, hundreds of thousands of Coloradans have lost their lives as a direct result. Today the death toll continues to mount in Colorado as well as the rest of the country, and with it the tremendous cost to our society.

What would have become of the 50 million Americans whose lives were so untimely taken from them? What discoveries will we never see? What diseases will never be cured because we allowed these lives to be taken? The loss to society, resulting from the perverse logic that the life of an "unplanned" child does not possess the same value as that of any other child, is staggering.

The most common medical procedure performed in the United States, abortion is also a deplorable attack on the health of American women. Abortion, though it was legalized in the name of women's health, causes immediate medical complications for over 140,000 women a year, increases the risk of premature birth in subsequent pregnancies, and results in a higher chance of infertility. Furthermore, post-abortion syndrome, which is similar to post-traumatic stress disorder, has led to untold amounts of suffering among American women. Compared to women that give birth, women who abort their unborn children are almost three times more likely to require psychological care.

I believe that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will one day look upon abortion as we now look upon slavery, as an evil so great it tore apart the moral fabric of our Nation. While fighting slavery, the inhumane scourge of his own era, Frederick Douglass said, "one and God makes a majority." Those who fight in the name of life are therefore the majority, and will ultimately prevail. I hope and pray that I will never again have to observe this dark anniversary, and promise that I will continue to do everything in my power to protect innocent lives and the well-being of women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, due to a funeral, I was unable to return in time to vote on Monday, April 23, 2007. Please find below a listing of my missed votes and a record of my votes, had I been present.

Rollcall #245 on H. Res. 179, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall #246 on H.R. 1434, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."